

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 06127 052057Z

62

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: DRC MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION - US

REF: USNATO 5899

SUMMARY: AT NOVEMBER 4 DRC MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION OF US COUNTRY CHAPTER, CHAIRMAN ACKNOWLEDGED MAGNITUDE AND IMPORTANCE OF US CONTRIBUTION TO ALLIANCE. DRC DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON NAVAL REDUCTIONS, NUNN AMENDMENT, AND LACK OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION. END OF SUMMARY.

1. DURING NOVEMBER 4 DRC MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION OF US RESPONSE TO THE DEFENSE PLANNING REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE, CHAIRMAN (HUMPHREYS) ACKNOWLEDGED THE IMPORTANCE OF US STRATEGIC AND CONVENTIONAL FORCE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ALLIANCE. HE SPECIFICALLY PRAISED THE US REINFORCEMENT CAPABILITY TO EUROPE AND HOW THE US DEMONSTRATES THIS COMMITMENT TO NATO EACH YEAR THROUGH REFORGER/CRESTED CAP EXERCISES. CHAIRMAN NOTED WITH APPREHENSION GENERAL TREND AMONG ALLIES, INCLUDING THE US, TO SHIFT FORCES FROM ASSIGNED TO EARMARKED STATUS. DRAWING ON A RECENT US STATEMENT TO THE DPC ON SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 06127 052057Z

THIS ISSUE (REFTEL, PARA 5), HE HOPED TO SEE A REVERSAL OF THIS TREND. CHAIRMAN EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH US ATTAINMENT OF NATO FORCE GOALS, HOWEVER, HE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING SHORTFALLS: NAVY AIRCRAFT CARRIER COMMITMENT REDUCED

IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND IN THE ATLANTIC; DELAYS OF THE SEA CONTROL SHIP PROGRAM; AIR FORCE COMMITMENT WAS SHORT 18 AIRCRAFT; LOW-LEVEL MISSILE PROTECTION FOR AIR BASES NOT ACCEPTED; AND LACK OF FINANCIAL DATA BEYOND 1974/75. SACLANT REP (CDR DANIELS) ELABORATED ON NAVAL SHORTFALLS IN ATTACK SUBMARINES, DESTROYERS/ ESCORTS, AND ADEQUATE ASW FORCES. IN ADDITION TO ANSWERING QUESTIONS POSED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS, CHAIRMAN HOPED US TEAM WOULD ALSO COMMENT TO DRC ON: (1) THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE NUNN AMENDMENT TO NATO; (2) WHETHER THE US WOULD CONSULT WITH ITS ALLIES ON A BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL LEVEL WHEN ADDRESSING THE NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF THE NUNN AMENDMENT; AND (3) THE STATUS OF US NEGOTIATIONS FOR WARTIME BASING OPTIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR REINFORCEMENT FORCES.

2. US TEAM CHIEF (GEN MCAULIFFE) AND HIS ADVISORS PROVIDED DETAILED ANSWERS IN RESPONSE TO CHAIRMAN'S QUESTIONS.

AIRCRAFT CARRIERS. US INTENDS TO IMPROVE THIS SITUATION BY PROVIDING A SECOND CARRIER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND ANOTHER IN ATLANTIC FOR SELECTED PERIODS DURING THE YEAR, WHILE RETAINING THE CAPABILITY TO SURGE FORCES AS NECESSARY ON SHORT NOTICE.

FINANCIAL DATA. NEW CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET PROCESS MAY PERMIT PROJECTIONS TO BE MADE OF PLANNED EXPENDITURES FOR A FIVE YEAR PERIOD IN BOTH CURRENT AND CONSTANT PRICES.

NUNN AMENDMENT. TEAM CHIEF PROVIDED A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE THREE ACTIONS RELATED TO RESTRUCTURING CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE, STANDARDIZATION WITH THE ALLIANCE, AND THE RE-EXAMINATION OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND RELATED POLICIES AND DOCTRINE. HE ASSURED THE DRC THAT US WOULD CONSULT WITH ITS ALLIES ON A MULTILATERAL BASIS ON NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF THE NUNN AMENDMENT.

COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES (COB). PROGRESS WAS SLOW UNTIL MAY 1974, WHEN USAFE PRESENTED BRIEFINGS ON ITS COB REQUIREMENTS TO THE DPC AND MC. SINCE THEN, GENERAL MEMORANDUMS OF UNDER-SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 06127 052057Z

STANDING HAVE BEEN SIGNED WITH NORWAY, GERMANY AND ENGLAND. A LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH THE NETHERLANDS IS IN WASHINGTON FOR APPROVAL. SEVERAL OTHER BASE SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS ARE CURRENTLY IN NATIONAL CAPITALS FOR APPROVAL PRIOR TO CONSUMMATION.

MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE. TEAM CHIEF STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF A LONG-RANGE DEFENSE CONCEPT WHICH WILL PERMIT US TO MEET THE MAJOR CHALLENGES FACING THE ALLIANCE. THE US IS SEEKING GREATER EFFECTIVENESS ON THE PART OF OUR ARMED FORCES AND GREATER EFFICIENCY IN THE USE OF RESOURCES THROUGH RATIONALIZATION, STANDARDIZATION, INCREASED COMMON SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATION. TEAM CHIEF HOPED FOR SERIOUS EXAMINATION OF US PROPOSALS IN NATO COMMITTEES AND ADEQUATE DISCUSSIONS BY

MINISTERS IN DECEMBER.

3. US TEAM PROVIDED REPLIES TO FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS.

FRG REP (GEN SCHUNEMAN) COMMENTED ON THE NEED FOR A TIMELY DECISION TO SEND US REINFORCEMENTS TO EUROPE ALTHOUGH HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE ESCALATORY EFFECT OF SUCH ACTION WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN ARRIVING AT THE DECISION. FRG REP VIEWED STANDARDIZATION EFFORT AS REQUIRING RENEWED ACTION BY ALL TO INCLUDE A US WILLINGNESS TO BUY EUROPEAN DEFENSE PRODUCTS WHEN APPROPRIATE.

IN RESPONSE TO THE UK REQUEST FOR MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ON THE KIND OF COMBAT FORCES THE US PLANNED FOR IN CONVERTING THE 18,000 SUPPORT PERSONNEL THE TEAM CHIEF EXPRESSED US INTENT TO PROVIDE INCREASED CAPABILITY IN FORM OF GROUND MANEUVER UNITS AND TACTICAL AIR UNITS.

SHAPE REP (MILLER) BROUGHT THE COMMITTEES ATTENTION TO THE US RESPONSE IN REGARD TO TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, SUGGESTING THAT OTHER COUNTRIES CONCERNED IN THESE BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD ALSO BE ASKED TO COMMENT. CHAIRMAN DID NOT PURSUE SUGGESTION DURING THIS SESSION, COMMENTING THAT OTHER NATIONS WILL BE QUESTIONED DURING THEIR MULTILATERALS. SHAPE REP ASKED IF FURTHER INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE ON THE 1975 EXCHANGE OF LANCE FOR THE SERGEANT WEAPON SYSTEM IN ITALY. US REPLY POINTED OUT THAT PROGRESS ON TRAINING AND CHANGE-OVER TO LANCE FOR
SECRET

PAGE 04 NATO 06127 052057Z

ITALY WAS ON SCHEDULE AND PROGRAMMED TO MEET THE MID-1975 TIME FRAME.

IN RESPONSE TO CANADIAN REP (SHEFFIELD) QUESTION ON FEASIBILITY OF 3 PER CENT REAL INCREASE IN DEFENSE SPENDING IN VIEW OF DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, TEAM CHIEF RESPONDED THAT US RECOGNIZES DIFFICULTIES BUT WANTS SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF THIS GOAL BY MINISTERS IN DECEMBER.

CHAIRMAN HUMPHREYS' REQUEST FOR A BRIEF RESUME ON THE NEW US BUDGET PROCESS BROUGHT OUT THE SYSTEM'S FEATURE WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR INFLATION IN THE PROCUREMENT, R&D AND CONSTRUCTION FUNDING AREAS. HIS SECOND QUESTION ASKED FOR THE US TO COMMENT ON A COUNTRY WHOSE ARMY'S DUAL CAPABLE ARTILLERY PROVIDES FOR THE NUCLEAR ROLE BUT NOT THE CONVENTIONAL. US RESPONSE INDICATED THAT SUCH A PROCEDURE SEEMED TO PROVIDE A VERY INFLEXIBLE EMPLOYMENT PATTERN AND WAS NOT COST EFFECTIVE BECAUSE ONLY A SMALL INCREASE IN COST IS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITY, ONCE UNIT IS NUCLEAR CAPABLE.

4. HUMPHREYS MADE THREE CONCLUDING POINTS: (1) HE HOPED THAT THE US CONSULTATION CONCERNING THE RESULTS OF ITS REVIEW OF

THE TACTICAL NUCLEAR POSTURE IN EUROPE WOULD BE MULTILATERAL NOT BILATERAL (US INDICATED INTENT TO CONSULT MULTILATERALLY); (2) ON STANDARDIZATION HE FELT THAT SHORT RANGE DECISIONS WERE BEING MADE DAILY WHICH LEAD TO NON-STANDARDIZATION AND WHICH, IF REVERSED, WOULD SHORTEN THE LONG RANGE ESTIMATE EXPRESSED BY SOME COLLEAGUES AROUND TABLE; (3) HE OBSERVED THAT THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE US PROPOSED INCREASE AT THIS TIME OF ITS COMBAT MANPOWER TO NATO SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED. CHAIRMAN CLOSED SESSION BY THANKING THE US FOR THE TEAM ATTENDANCE AND THE FORTHRIGHT ANSWERS PROVIDED. HE STATED THAT HE CONSIDERED THIS SESSION TO BE A MODEL FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW.
MCAULIFFE

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